

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 19894 091702Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 091653Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8595

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 19894

EXDIS

DEPT PASS S/CL

BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EGEN PFOR UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEWS ON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

REF: PARIS 36156

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR
TO CALLAGHAN AND FCO OFFICIALS ABOUT A POSSIBLE ECONOMIC
SUMMIT MEETING, WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN IMPRESSION THAT WHILE
GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET EXAMINED IDEA IN ANY DETAIL IT
CONSIDERS GENERAL CONCEPT HIGHLY USEFUL AND WOULD WANT
TO PARTICIPATE. OFFICIAL LEVEL AT FCO IS IN PROCESS OF
RECOMMENDING TO CABINET SEVERAL OTHER POSSIBLE UK INI-
TIATIVES, BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL, FOR LEADERS OF
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO GET TOGETHER AFTER NEW YEAR.

2. BERNARD DONOUGHUE, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR TO
CALLAGHAN, GAVE US HIS "PERSONAL VIEW WITHOUT HAVING DIS-
CUSSED IT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER," THAT IDEA OF SUMMIT
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PAGE 02 LONDON 19894 091702Z

IS A GOOD ONE AND THE SOONER THE BETTER, AFTER PRESIDENT

CARTER GETS HIS FEET ON THE GROUND. HE STRESSED THAT IT WOULD "BE GOOD FOR PRESIDENT CARTER" TO BE EXPOSED TO THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS, AND ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES, INVOLVED IN THE GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE OF INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES. ON TIMING, DONOUGHUE THOUGHT APRIL/MAY MEETING MADE SENSE IN THAT NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL WOULD HAVE MET AND CONCERTED AS BEST IT COULD. SITE AND PARTICIPANTS WERE OPEN ISSUES AS FAR AS DONOUGHUE WAS CONCERNED.

3. FCO OFFICIALS, AT ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL, HAVE LITTLE DOUBT CALLAGHAN WOULD FIND SUMMIT MEETING HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE, BUT THEY SEE USUAL PROBLEM OF HOW EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WOULD BE REPRESENTED--A CIRCLE UK WOULD HAVE TO SQUARE AS IT TAKES OVER EC PRESIDENCY ON JANUARY 1. FCO IS IN PROCESS NOW OF PUTTING TO CABINET SEVERAL, UNSPECIFIED, SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL TECHNIQUES FOR GETTING INDUSTRIALIZED LEADERS TOGETHER AFTER CARTER ADMINISTRATION TAKES OVER. IF RPT IF RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY MINISTERS FCO WOULD BE RAISING THEM WITH DEPARTMENT DURING NEXT FEW DAYS.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON19894
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760455-0282
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761259/aaaabykr.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 PARIS 36156
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH VIEWS ON ECONOMIC SUMMIT
TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, UK, US, (DONOUGHUE, BERNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006